

COURT PLANNING PREMATURE, SAYS DARBY

Airport Here On 'Emergency' Basis



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FIELD USE BY ARMY POSSIBLE

Placed under "alert" operation this week due to the declaration of national emergency is the Torrance Municipal Airport, according to City Manager George Stevens.

Subject to "requisition" by the U. S. Air Force at any time, the airport now is operating under a "Civil Defense Plan for Civil Aviation Other Than Scheduled Airlines," Stevens said. Stevens reported that, according to Condition 2 of the Civil Defense Plan, under which the airport now is operating, all local airport authorities will implement police authority for airport personnel. This is to insure enforcement of airport and aircraft securities. "The object," according to Stevens, "is to manage the airport's civil aircraft facilities consistent with the primary mission of the armed forces to prevent enemy attack."

Sub Base of March Field
Formerly part of the Weston Ranch, the airport was bought by the Army at the outbreak of World War II. It was operated as a sub-base of March Field during the war.

At the close of the war, when put on the surplus list, Weston interests were given the opportunity to buy it back. Several private parties sought to take the airport over, but regulations provided that first, the state then, the county, and lastly the city had priority in purchase of the airport.

Refused by state and county, Weston interests favored City of Torrance ownership of the airport. After much confusion with private operators on the field, the City of Torrance acquired the airport and named it Zamperini Field in honor of Louis Zamperini World War II hero.

Now operated by the City, the management contract was taken over by Edward Dietrich Jr. at end of October, 1950.

Needs of Areas Get Consideration

Civic leaders, jurists and lawyers of the entire Torrance and South Bay areas will be called into consultation regarding the boundaries and jurisdictional limits of inferior courts under the reorganization plan (Proposition No. 3) which was adopted by the people of California on Nov. 7.

This was the statement of Supervisor Raymond V. Darby to the Press when interviewed on the effect of the reorganization on local court affairs.

The bill eliminates, when it goes into effect, Torrance City Court, presided over by Judge Otto E. Willett, and the local Township court presided over by Justice of the Peace J. H. Shidler, both of whom reside in Torrance.

"The situation is pretty vague now," Supervisor Darby told the Press. "It will not be effective until January 1, 1952. The Board of Supervisors will want to study the matter quite thoroughly before making any kind of decision."

Asked about the meeting slated for later in January, called by Justice of the Peace Shidler, according to published reports, Darby said that he was interested in discussions. However, as to proposals for court reorganization offered by Shidler, he declared: "It is just one judge's opinion."

UP TO SUPERVISORS
Darby said that all judges in the area will be called into consultation, but that the matter of fixing the boundaries rests with the Board of Supervisors and not with the jurists of the area.

Community need, origin of criminal cases, the volume of

(Continued on Page Nine)

RIVIERA SCHOOL GETS NOD

Architects for the new Hollywood Riviera elementary school were hired by the Board of Education Tuesday night as demands for more classrooms in the Torrance area have dwindled remaining bond issue funds to \$228,000.

Daniel, Mann & Johnson were the architects hired for the 13 room Hollywood Riviera school estimated to cost \$300,000.

The Board also authorized the survey of land for El Nido school, and ordered architects to proceed with the plans for moving nine bungalows to the site at 186th street and Hawthorne Boulevard.

Also, Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull was given the go ahead to select sites for Kettler Knolls and Strawberry tract (190th and Crenshaw Blvd.) schools.

After these sites are purchased, there will be approximately \$175,000 in elementary bond (Continued on Page Nine)

\$1300 of Red Feather Goal Still Lacking

With about \$1300 still to go, the Torrance Community Chest campaign is getting close to the goal, Dean L. Sears, campaign chairman, reported this week. Contributions amounting to \$1569 have been received bringing total production up to \$18,135.56 which is 93.3 per cent of the \$19,460 goal.

An additional \$208 in contributions in the Residential Division this week brings the total to 93.8 per cent of the \$1900 quota. This division is only \$12.00 short of their quota.

The Advance Gifts Division and previously reported as over the top now stand at 116 per cent and 107.2 per cent respectively.

Most of the money needed to put the campaign over the top is expected to come from the local Commerce and Industry Division of which Charles Ragsdale is chairman. This division now has 81.6 per cent and needs another \$789. To reach the \$4300 quota, Sears said.

The Business Division, of which Paul Diamond is chairman, now stands at 85.8 per cent and needs only \$213 to reach the \$1500 quota. Major Commerce and Industry with a \$9700 quota needs \$567.50 in additional contributions to reach 100 per cent.

Sears said, "Every gift, large or small, is needed if we are to provide Red Feather Services for all in need of them in the coming year. Those who have not yet made a contribution can mail it to the Torrance Community Chest Service Center, 1103 Sartori Ave. and help put this campaign over the top by Christmas."

Fencing of Truman Browne Sump Ordered

Orders have been issued for the sump in the Truman Browne Tract to be fenced within the next week, according to Chief of Police John Stroh. After inspection, Chief Stroh reported that the sump is now filled with rocks and dirt, presenting no hazardous situation.

At the Council meeting of December 12, Councilman Willys Blount presented several pictures to the Council showing this sump during the last rainfall. Children are pictured floating atop rafts on the sump which was filled with water.

Councilman George Powell moved that the Chief of Police analyze the "Kathy Fiscus Ordinance" to determine whether it would apply in this instance, and to take the necessary steps to eliminate the hazard of this sump.

**\$400 Paid By
City for State
League Dues**
The City Council at its Dec. 12 meeting appropriated \$400 to pay for its annual dues to the League of California Cities for the year (Continued on Page Nine)

Yule Spirit Felt At Fire Station

Taking pride in their Fire Station, Torrance Firemen spent most of last Thursday decorating the Torrance Fire Station with gay holiday trappings.

Capt. Roy Winters said that the firemen decorated the station with materials borrowed from the City's electrical department, but with incentive and ability all their own. Most of the firemen participated in the day's decorating activities.

LAST \$100 GOLD RUSH PRIZE FRIDAY

The last chance to win the \$100 Gold Rush Prize offered by Torrance merchants will be tomorrow night at 7 p. m. in front of Almond's Department Store, 1261 Sartori Ave., Torrance. Special Christmas consolation prizes will also be offered.

Winner of last week's \$100 Gold Rush Prize was Maxwell Klimm, 1952 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance.

With tomorrow night being the last of the \$1000 Gold Rush Events, numbers will be called until some lucky winner, present at the event claims the \$100 Gold Rush Prize.

Paul Diamond, chairman for Gold Rush Days, announced that tickets are available at leading merchants in Torrance, free of charge.

Police Lose S. Johnson To Naval Duty

Ten year veteran of the Torrance Police Force, Sgt. Swayne Johnson was recalled to report to active Naval service on or before February 13.

Popular and well known in Torrance, Johnson, who resides at 1726 1/2 Martina ave., is scheduled to take his physical exam January 10. He is to report to San Diego February 13. Johnson served three years in the Navy during World War II as a 2nd Class Metalsmith. He served with a Repair Unit.

He has, for the past two years up to the present time, been the manager of the Torrance Police baseball team.

Johnson and his wife, Laddie, have a seventeen-year-old daughter, Jackie, who is now a junior at Torrance High School.

Fire Completely Ravages Home

Completely ravaged by fire Monday afternoon was the residence of Jessie C. Gonzales, 2103 203rd st., Torrance.

With a roughly estimated damage of \$1500 due to the fire, Torrance firemen, lead by Capt. Gordon Northington, fought extremely heavy smoke in combating the blaze. All of the men were effected by the smoke. Two fire engines were called out to fight the fire. It was said that the candles on a Statuette of the Virgin Mary was the cause of the conflagration.

Capt. Northington is acting as Fire Chief during the vacation absence of Fire Chief Jake Benner.

High Record For Postal Cancellations

The 108,324 postal cancellations of Monday beat last year's high record of 77,933 postal cancellations, announced Postmaster Clara Conner. These cancellations are exclusive of parcel post.

She also announced that the Post Office will close noon, Sat., Dec. 23, but will keep one window open for stamps and parcel post to take care of late mailing. The Post Office will be closed completely Sun., Dec. 24 and Mon., Dec. 25.

Lions Childrens, Yule Party This Afternoon

(See picture on page 9)
Ready for the 2000 children expected 2 p.m. this afternoon in the Civic Auditorium at the Fifth Annual Lions Club Childrens Christmas Party are bags chock full of candy, apples, and oranges. Singing cowboy Doye O'Dell of television Ranch C-4, will be there to share the spotlight with Santa Claus at the big yule party, announced Paul Diamond, chairman of the event.

The party is made possible for all local children who wish to attend by the Lions Club, in cooperation with Torrance merchants and Professional men. The City also is donating \$225 towards the event.

The program will begin with Rev. Ulysses S. Schauer leading the opening service followed by numbers from the Bettie Thomas Accordionettes. Doye O'Dell will then appear to entertain the kids. Singing of Christmas carols, led by Lloyd Jones, follows Doye O'Dell.

St. Nick then will make his grand entrance to authorize the doling out of the packages to the kids.

Milt Isbell, program chairman, said that any extra packages will be distributed by Santa in rest homes and hospitals following the party.

FOOD BASKETS
Isbell also announced that from the Christmas funds, the Lions Club will prepare Christmas food baskets for needy Torrance families. Last year, 40 baskets were given to families by the Club.

Traffic Signal Installed on Sepulveda

With the new Western avenue bringing more traffic through Torrance than ever in its history, Los Angeles authorities who have accepted the responsibility for installation and maintenance of traffic signals on the thoroughfare, which is half in Torrance and half in Los Angeles, have installed new signals at Sepulveda boulevard and Western.

The intersection has been the scene of several fatal accidents since Western was opened.

Motorists who have been in the habit of making Western a "speedway" from the signal at 220th street to the one at Lomita boulevard now will have to slow their pace, and deal with the new lights.

X-Ray Unit Here This Weekend

Available to those in the Torrance area who have not yet taken their Chest X-Ray are six different locations of the Chest X-Ray Mobile Unit this weekend. The first day of the X-Ray campaign proved to be very successful with 663 taking X-Rays at one location, announced Dr. Allen Pyeatt, publicity chairman. Locations and dates are as follows:

Torrance National Bank, Tues. Dec. 19 through Sat. Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Duarte's Market (The Pueblo) Thurs., Dec. 21 from 12 noon to 8 p.m.

Roth's Market, Fri., Dec. 22 and Sat., Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Daniel's Bus Depot and Cafe, Fri., Dec. 22 and Sat., Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Haggett's Real Estate (Seaside Rancho), Fri., Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Bill's Barber Shop (Walteria), Sat., Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Free of charge, quick and no undressing needed, Dr. Pyeatt emphasized that a chest X-ray is urged for every person over 15 years of age.

4 Smog Devices In Operation Here by June

Expected to be in operation by next June at Columbia Steel Co. in Torrance are four electrostatic precipitators, devices which prevent the emission of possible "smog" into the air.

One of the 60 foot high devices has been installed and is now in operation at the plant, according to officials.

E. R. Kelso, works engineer of the plant, said that the program will cost several hundred thousands of dollars. It is expected to eliminate 96 per cent of the fumes which usually come from the massive open hearth furnaces.

Occupation of New Walteria School Jan. 2

The new Walteria Elementary School, on Madison st., south of 101 Highway, will be occupied by January 2, the end of the Christmas vacation, announced Judge John Shidler, chairman of the School Board.

A \$280,000 project, the new Walteria school will house about 420 students, it was said. Bungalows from the old school will be used elsewhere in the School District.